public by the entities most qualified to do so, and treat equitably licensees that have invested millions of dollars to develop AVM systems for which they are licensed. The Commission has placed a very short construction period for licensees to retain grandfathered status.

Consequently, only those technologies ready to be deployed will be able to take advantage of the grandfathering rules.

SBMS's objection to grandfathering is based largely on the fact that it delayed in submitting license applications and its thinly veiled concern that grandfathering encourages spectrum warehousing. This problem is easily addressed without eliminating grandfathering, however, by limiting the number of grandfathered systems per licensee to twenty-five BTAs, as Pinpoint stated in its Petition.⁶³

Moreover, as Pinpoint urged in its Petition, the Commission should modify its grandfathering provisions in certain limited respects to maximize competition among existing licensees and MTA licensees by allowing grandfathered licensees to: (1) build out within the BTAs in which they are licensed; (2) move their antenna sites after the construction deadline due to circumstances beyond their control; and (3) modify their licenses after the construction deadline to add additional mobiles, implement improvements in their systems, or facilitate sharing.⁶⁴

⁶³ Pinpoint at 15-16.

Pinpoint at 13-17. Pinpoint concurs in principle with MobileVision that the current grandfathering provisions unduly restrict a licensee's ability to provide quality service to the public. MobileVision at 7. However, MobileVision's specific proposals unfairly favor licensees with a plethora of existing sites. See id. at 9. The modifications outlined above will further the public interest in the provision of a robust LMS marketplace, while not privileging one class of grandfathered licensees over another.

VI. SOUTHWESTERN BELL'S REQUEST TO USE 2 MHZ BUILDING BLOCKS FOR MULTILATERATION SYSTEMS SHOULD BE DENIED

Petitioner SBMS rehashes its arguments, made at length in multiple ex parte filings, that the Commission should adopt a band plan based on 2 MHz increments. As amply demonstrated earlier in the record, however, the auctioning of all LMS spectrum in 2 MHz blocks would needlessly impede the competitive viability of small entrepreneurial LMS developers like Pinpoint. These developers would encounter great difficulty aggregating sufficient bandwidth for efficient high capacity services. Indeed, a competing LMS provider could prevent or severely limit another provider's aggregation and service plans by bidding up the cost of the final 2 MHz needed to operate a high performance system.

While Pinpoint does not support the FCC's decision not to allocate an 8 MHz subband for sharing -- and seeks reconsideration on this matter⁶⁷ -- the Commission's multilateration LMS band plan is otherwise generally supported by a reasoned approach given the multiple and conflicting demands for the spectrum by LMS entities deploying divergent technologies. Revision of the band plan to better suit one petitioner's interests -- while handicapping all other providers -- plainly is not in the public interest. Accordingly, SBMS's request should be denied.

⁶⁵ SBMS at 5-6.

⁶⁶ See Ex Parte Letter of David E. Hilliard, Counsel for Pinpoint Communications, Inc. to William F. Caton (dated Jan. 19, 1995).

⁶⁷ Pinpoint at 3-13; see also Uniplex at 9.

VII. CONCLUSION

The record demonstrates that elevating the status of Part 15 relative to multilateration LMS licensees is a mistake that will come back to haunt the Commission and frustrate the timely and efficient provision of LMS service to the American public. Accordingly, the revisions to the FCC's rules suggested above should be adopted. In addition, there is unequivocal record support for a realistic, yet effective, emission mask. At the same time, the record provides little or no support for the expansion of the permissible uses of the band, abolition of the grandfathering rules, or a fundamental reworking of the entire multilateration LMS band plan to advantage a single LMS provider.

Respectfully Submitted,

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